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Letter dated 29 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the agreement reached between the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and the Union of Islamic Courts, issued on 27 June 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gerhard **Pfanzelter**
Permanent Representative of Austria
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 29 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the agreement reached between the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and the Union of Islamic Courts, issued on 27 June 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the agreement reached in Khartoum on 22 June 2006 establishing a basis for negotiations between the Somali Transitional Federal Institutions and the Union of Islamic Courts, and congratulates both the League of Arab States and the Sudanese Government for facilitating the talks.

The European Union urges the Transitional Federal Institutions and the Union of Islamic Courts to sincerely and urgently implement this agreement by engaging in meaningful dialogue in pursuit of a political solution, so that peace and stability can return to Somalia, in the interest of the Somali civilian population.

The European Union calls on all regional and international partners to create and maintain the conditions necessary for the dialogue and to continue to support the dialogue within the framework of the Transitional Federal Charter.

The European Union reaffirms its readiness to provide political and material support to this process as necessary and appropriate.

The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,* the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the stabilization and association process.